

ABSTRACT

A cell containing sample is separated into a cell containing portion and a substantially cell depleted portion, by mixing the sample with particles to produce a cell  
5 containing network, and separating the network from the remaining substantially cell  
depleted portion using a magnetic force. It is contemplated that whole blood may be used  
as the sample, and that the cell-containing portion largely comprises a network of inter-  
linked red blood cells. It is especially contemplated that separation involves anti-ligands,  
preferably primary antibodies that bind to a ligand such as antigen on or in red blood cell  
10 membranes, and secondary antibodies that bind to the primary antibodies. It is also  
contemplated that the primary antibodies can be coupled to the surfaces of paramagnetic  
beads.